



KENTUCKY

General News

September 2008

Welcome to Kentucky General News, a monthly newsletter from the office of Attorney General Jack Conway. Kentucky General News will keep you informed on the latest news from the Office, important information that affects consumers as well as upcoming events.

Attorney General Conway's Gas Price Probe Results in Civil Subpoenas

Attorney General Jack Conway continues to seek answers in his probe into Louisville gas prices. On August 22, his office issued civil subpoenas to refiners and suppliers of the Kentucky petroleum market. General Conway also asked the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the anti-trust division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) to review the merger of Marathon and Ashland Oil.



General Conway and Governor Steve Beshear launched the joint investigation into Louisville gas prices during the first week of July after receiving complaints from Louisville consumers who were paying about \$4.30 per gallon for gas. That price was nearly 30 cents more per gallon than other parts of the state.

Preliminary data obtained from the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) from the past two years shows that Louisville retailers have been paying about 10 cents more per gallon for gas when compared to prices reported in other parts of the state and region. Higher wholesale prices result in higher prices paid by consumers.

"Louisville consumers are clearly paying a higher pre-tax price for gas today than they were ten years ago relative to other comparable cities in the region. We're also concerned about the prices in Northern Kentucky and the rest of the state."



Kentucky Attorney General
Jack Conway

The civil subpoenas sent by the Office of the Attorney General to retailers and suppliers seek explanations and data to determine why Louisville retailers are paying more for gasoline than their counterparts in other cities. They have 45 days to supply the information. The Attorney General's office will analyze the information and determine whether or not to move forward with a lawsuit.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/58nwt>

Conway Warns Against Storm Related Price Gouging

Attorney General Jack Conway has assured consumers that his office will investigate and prosecute people who are ripping off consumers in the wake of Hurricane Ike which hit the Gulf Coast and the resulting wind storm which hit Kentucky on September 14. In the days following the storm, the Office of the Attorney General received more than 2,000 emails and phone calls reporting possible price gouging at the pumps.

"We're in the process of contacting the stations with the highest gas prices and asking to see their bills of lading which show the price they paid for the gas. We can then determine the retail margin. If we find exorbitant profits, we will take appropriate action under the price gauging statute which includes both restitution and a \$5,000 fine per transaction," General Conway said.

On September 12, General Conway requested that Governor Steve Beshear sign an executive order declaring a state of emergency to prevent price gouging in the commonwealth. The emergency declaration also covers all emergency and building supplies, including generators.

"I felt it was important to get the price gouging protections in place as soon as possible to protect the commonwealth's consumers and businesses," added Conway.

To report possible price gouging call 888-432-9257. Gas price complaints should be directed to gaspricecomplaints@ag.ky.gov

General Conway Teams Up With Microsoft to Fight Cybercrime



Law enforcement officers report that 80 percent of crimes committed involve some type of digital or computer evidence. That's why the Kentucky Attorney General's office teamed up with Microsoft to provide cybercrimes training for law enforcement across the commonwealth. More than 100 law enforcement officers attended the September 3 cybercrimes training.

Microsoft selected General Conway's office as one of nine agencies in the nation to host cybercrimes training and data collection seminars. "We are thrilled to be teamed up with Microsoft to provide state of the art training for

law enforcement in Kentucky. This training will help police better track child pornography, online predators, internet scam artists and identity theft," General Conway said.

In June, General Conway announced creation of a Cybercrimes Division dedicated to investigating crimes that occur online.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/6p8pv2>

Preventing Identity Theft

In 2007, more than 8.5 million Americans were the victims of identity theft, costing consumers about \$45 billion. Attorney General Conway wants consumers to know that they too can join in the fight to combat one of the fastest growing crimes in America; shred documents that contain bank account numbers, credit card information, Social Security numbers, birth dates, PINs or even old tax returns.

On September 5 & 6, General Conway again teamed up with the Better Business Bureau to allow residents to shred up to four large boxes or 100 pounds of documents for free utilizing Iron Mountain's mobile shred truck.

In May, more than 450 people participated in free shredding events in Louisville and Lexington coordinated by the Attorney General's Office, the Better Business Bureau and Iron Mountain.

Identity Theft Tips

- ▶ Do not keep Social Security card in wallet or purse
- ▶ Do not put bills or checks in home mailbox for pickup
- ▶ Check credit reports, bank statements and credit card statements often for irregularities
- ▶ Shred all documents with personal information
- ▶ Never give personal information to someone on the phone, internet or email claiming to be your bank
- ▶ Do not store credit card numbers on shopping websites

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/3gmtsf>

KY Attorney General's Office Receives "Most Valuable Agency" Award

Operation Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education (UNITE) has recognized Attorney General Jack Conway and his Department of Criminal Investigations (DCI) for their efforts to fight illegal drugs. Jennifer Carpenter of the DCI's Drug Investigations Branch was present to accept the awards. The Office of the Attorney General received the "Most Valuable Agency" award from Operation UNITE, an organization created in 2003 by Fifth District Congressman Hal Rogers (R-Somerset). General Conway was also named a "Soaring Eagle."

"I am honored to accept these awards on behalf of our investigators and prosecutors who work each and every day to keep drugs out of our communities and to help keep Kentucky families safe," General Conway said.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/3vxkl6>



2008 Outstanding Commonwealth's and County Attorneys Named

Attorney General Conway was pleased to present the awards for the 2008 Outstanding Commonwealth's and County Attorneys at the Kentucky Prosecutor's Conference in Lexington. The recipients of the Outstanding Commonwealth's Attorney awards are David Flatt, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 37th Judicial Circuit serving Carter, Elliott and Morgan counties and Allen Trimble, Commonwealth's Attorney for the 34th Judicial Circuit encompassing McCreary and Whitley counties.



for Union County since 1999 and Dan Boaz, County Attorney for McCracken County since 1997.

For more information — <http://tinyurl.com/4c7wfb>

More photos from the conference — <http://tinyurl.com/4pzc2k>

The recipients of the 2008 Outstanding County Attorney awards are Brucie Moore, County Attorney